

To: Press[Press@epa.gov]
Cc: Harris-Bishop, Rusty[Harris-Bishop.Rusty@epa.gov]
From: Dean Higuchi
Sent: Thur 8/20/2015 4:53:31 PM
Subject: JIC ACTION - KGUN-TV Tucson, AZ

Forwarding question below...

Thanks!

Dean Higuchi
Press Officer/Congressional Liaison/Public Affairs
US EPA, Region 9, Hawaii Office
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808-541-2711

-----Original Message-----

From: Kath, Allen [mailto:allen.kath@kgun9.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 1:51 AM
To: Higuchi, Dean
Subject: Re: EPA Data Shows Water Quality in San Juan River in the Navajo Nation Back to Pre-Event Levels

Dean:

What's the discipline process that will be used against the EPA employee who caused this to occur?

Allen Kath
KGUN - TV
Tucson

From: Dean Higuchi <higuchi.dean@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2015 10:09 PM
To: Kath, Allen
Subject: EPA Data Shows Water Quality in San Juan River in the Navajo Nation Back to Pre-Event Levels

NOTE: These Updates are posted as they are released at: <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/press-releases-and-updates-gold-king-mine-response>
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For new Data Releases that are posted when they are released, please check:
<http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/data-gold-king-mine-response>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 19, 2015

EPA Data Shows Water Quality in San Juan River in the Navajo Nation Back to Pre-Event Levels

DURANGO, CO - Based on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) surface water data collected following the August 5, 2015 Gold King Mine release, San Juan River water quality in Navajo Nation has

returned to pre-event conditions. This determination is based on a review of water quality data collected from August 7-15, 2015 at EPA's sampling point near Hogback, N.M.

Water quality has now returned to levels measured before the release entered the Navajo Nation. Water and sediments from the mine were last observed at Nenahnezad, N.M., east of Hogback, N.M., on August 8, 2015.

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye had a productive phone conversation on August 19 to review water quality data. Based on that conversation the President indicated that the Navajo Nation may re-open the San Juan River for irrigation purposes as soon as this weekend. It was also agreed on that call, that Friday August 21, would be the last day for EPA water deliveries for agricultural use on the Navajo Nation.

EPA will work closely with the Navajo Nation in the coming weeks to ensure that a long-term monitoring plan for the San Juan River is implemented. In addition, EPA is positioned to provide technical assistance in flushing irrigation ditches on the Navajo Nation.

For more information on EPA's response to the Gold King Mine release please visit www.epa.gov/goldkingmine

Data can be found at: <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/data-gold-king-mine-response>

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